

CAPSULE SUMMARY  
3807 Old Crain Highway (PG: 79-77)  
Prince George's County, Maryland

Located near tobacco fields, this small vernacular house may have been built for a tenant farmer/agricultural worker circa 1910. The property was historically part of the 304 acres Bleek Hill, which was owned in the middle part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Frank W. and Richard Hill.

The house at 3807 Old Crain Highway is located on a slight rise on the west side of the highway. The lot features mature trees, shrubs, and a gravel driveway. A large pasture is behind a wood fence at the back of the lot. This small vernacular dwelling is one-story high and three bays wide. The house was originally rectangular in plan, however, a large one-story frame addition was added to the back of the house. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation, and the wood frame walls are clad with weatherboard siding. A side gable, asphalt shingle roof with exposed rafter ends covers the building. A central interior brick chimney projects from the gabled roof of the rear addition.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG: 79-77

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1. Name of Property

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historic name \_\_\_\_\_  
common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number 3807 Old Crain Highway not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Upper Marlboro vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland code MD  
county Prince George's County code 33 zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_  
No X

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3807 Old Crain Highway  
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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Poured Concrete

Roof Gable: Asphalt Shingle

Walls Wood Frame: Weatherboard Siding

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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3807 Old Crain Highway  
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=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1910-1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates c. 1910  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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3807 Old Crain Highway  
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 43 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 3807 Old Crain Highway is designated as Parcel 8, Grid C2 as indicated on Map 93.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 3807 Old Crain Highway has historically been associated with Parcel 8 since its construction circa 1910.

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians  
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 7, 1999  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

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12. Property Owner

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name John M. and Frances Hill Myers  
street & number 3610 Crain Highway, SE telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 79-77

Section 7 Page 1

3807 Old Crain Highway  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

=====

The house at 3807 Old Crain Highway is located on a slight rise on the west side of the highway. The lot features mature trees, shrubs, and a gravel driveway. A large pasture is behind a wood fence at the back of the lot. Built around 1910, this small vernacular dwelling is one-story high and three bays wide. The house was originally rectangular in plan, however, a large one-story frame addition was added to the back of the house. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation, and the wood frame walls are clad with weatherboard siding. A side gable, asphalt shingle roof with exposed rafter ends covers the building. A central interior brick chimney projects from the gabled roof of the rear addition.

**EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:**

The façade, or east elevation of the building, features a centered entry with a single-leaf paneled wood door. Two shallow concrete steps lead to the door. On either side of the door is a 2/2 wood window. The north elevation is comprised of the gable end of the front part of the house and a rear frame addition. The gable end section features a 2/2 wood window. The addition has a 1/1 aluminum window and a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door. The rear, or west elevation contains a single-leaf wood slab door on the left side, a 2/2 wood window in the center, and a 1/1 aluminum window on the right side. The south elevation features two 2/2 wood windows: one is in the gable end, the other is in the rear addition and has been partially covered with plywood.

**SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:**

A prefabricated utility shed and a privy are behind the house. Both are one story tall and one bay wide. The privy appears to have been built in the 1970s, and features wood frame construction with plywood siding, a single-leaf wood slab door, and an asphalt shingle, shed roof. The utility shed, also dates from the 1970s, and features metal walls and a front gambrel, sheet metal roof.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 1

3807 Old Crain Highway  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

=====

Located near tobacco fields, this small vernacular house may have been built for a tenant farmer/agricultural worker circa 1910. The property was historically part of the 304 acres Bleek Hill, which was owned in the middle part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Frank W. and Richard Hill.

Following the Civil War and the demise of the plantation system, farm size in Prince George's County slowly decreased. Although the average farm size decreased from 263 acres in 1860 to 159 acres in 1880 and 104 acres in 1910, the number of farms in the county increased from 800 in 1860 to approximately 2,400 by 1900. Tenant farming and sharecropping were also practiced, but the availability of credit placed a greater proportion of Maryland's farmland under independent ownership than in other former slave states. While tobacco continued to serve as a major cash crop, southern Maryland farmers, especially those nearer the urban markets of Washington and Baltimore, began diversifying and produced more crops, such as grains and potatoes, for consumption in the cities. Architecturally, the exposed rafter ends and poured concrete foundation place the house in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 2

3807 Old Crain Highway  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

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National Register Evaluation:

The house at 3807 Old Crain Highway is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Not Recommended X

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Review, OPS:  Date: 11/1/99

Reviewer, NR Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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3807 Old Crain Highway  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and  
Community Planning  
Agriculture

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 79-77

3807 Old Crain Highway  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

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**Chain of Title:**

September 8, 1896: Catherine S. Hill to Mildred W.N. Bowling  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber JWB 38 Folio 263

November 15, 1901: Mildred W.N. Bowling to Michael J. Wyvill  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 5 Folio 371

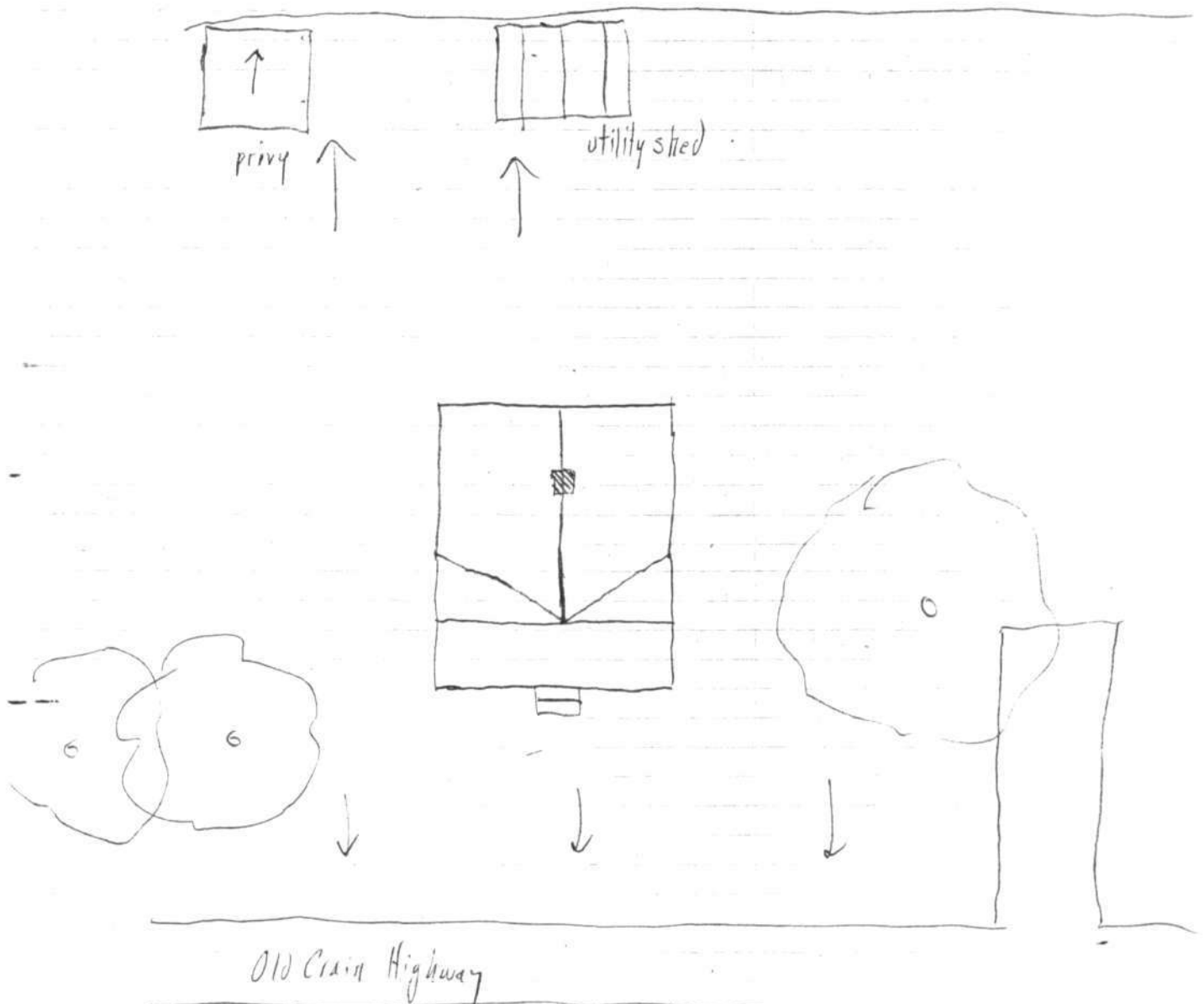
December 28, 1931: Michael J. Wyvill and Gertrude B. Wyville to  
Russell LeRoy Beall and Geneva M. Beall  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 381 Folio 359

January 12, 1937: M. Hampton Magruder and Mittie M. Magruder to  
Russell Leroy Beall and Geneva M. Beall  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 465 Folio 149

June 3, 1958: Russell Leroy Beall and Geneva M. Beall to M.  
Hampton Magruder  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 2215 Folio 126

M. Hampton Magruder bequeathed to Mittie Hall  
Magruder  
Will Records of Prince George's County  
Will Administrator No. 14522

June 29, 1984: Florence Hall Magruder and Mary M. Mustin,  
personal representatives of the estate of  
Mittie Hall Magruder, to John M. Myers and  
Frances Hill Myers  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 5923 Folio 214



3807 Old Crain Highway PG: 79-77

Prince George's County  
Maryland

Resource Sketch map  
Not Drawn to Scale

1999



1394 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW  
PG: 79-75

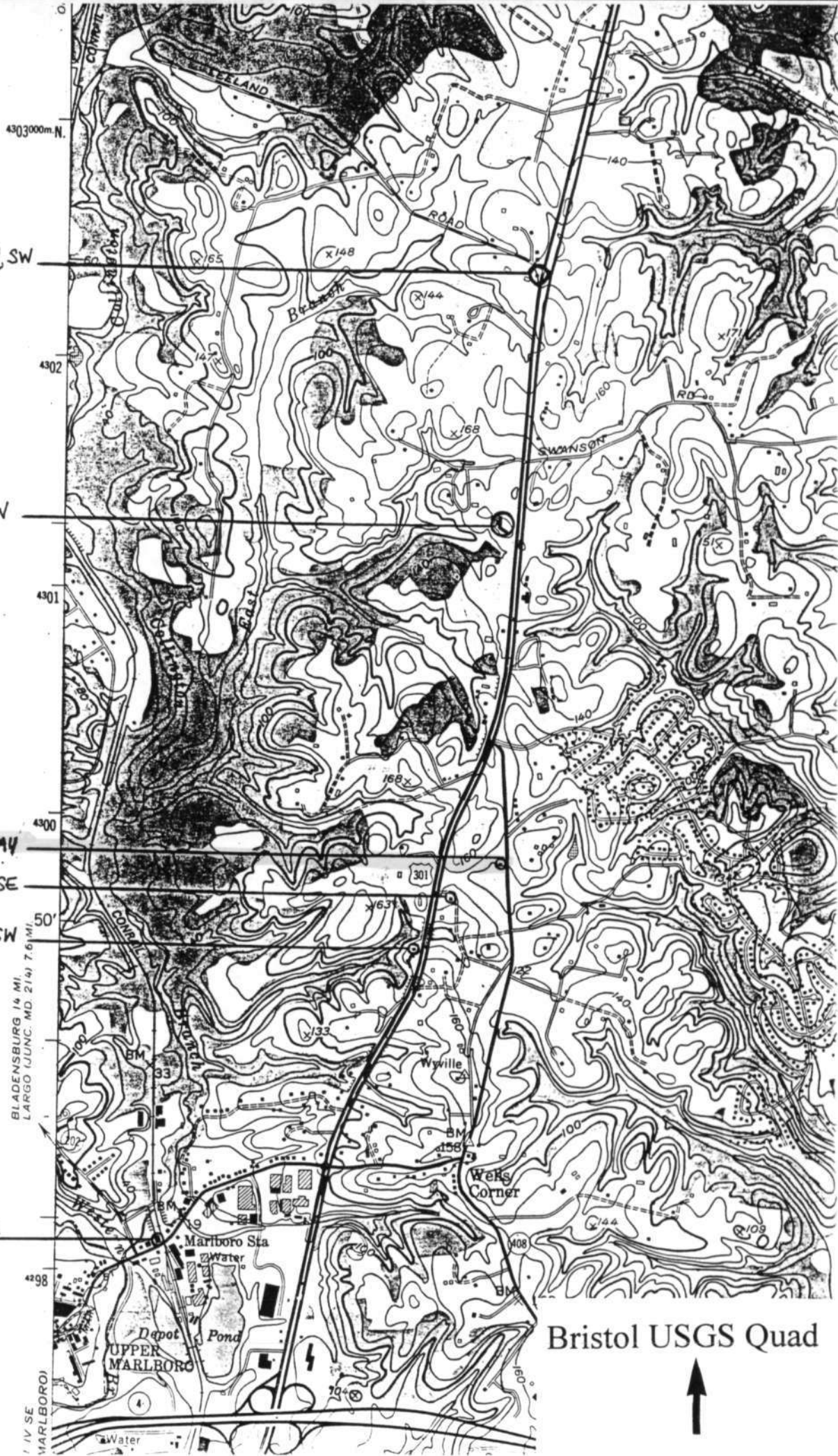
2901 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW  
PG: 79-76

3807 OLD CRAIN HIGHWAY  
PG: 79-77

4000 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SE  
PG: 79-78

4109 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW  
PG: 79-79

15008 MARLBORO PIKE  
PG: 79-80



Bristol USGS Quad





96:79-77

3807 OLD CRATH HIGHWAY  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

northeast corner

10<sup>2</sup> 4







PG: 74-77

3807 CRAIN HIGHWAY  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRAZERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

north elevation

2 of 4



76:79:77

3807 CRAIN HIGHWAY

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPD

west elevation

3 of 4



PG: 79-77

3807 OLD CRAIN HIGHWAY  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999  
MD SHPO

soothelevation

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